(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Kendriya Bhandar under its bye-laws is not authorised to undertake the business of sale and purchase of office equipment, fax machines, computers, furnitures, etc;

(f) if so, the reasons for violating the bye-laws;

(g) whether the copies of the statutory audit reports of the Bhandar are laid on the table of the House; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). No specific instances regarding grave irregularities in the matter of purchase of items by the Kendriya Bhandar have been mentioned in the main reports of the statutory autitors. However, in their Reports for 1990-91, the Auditors have made general comments regarding monitoring of supplies against purchase orders relating to procurement of spices and pulses. As suggested by the auditors, monitoring of supplies against purchase orders have been streamlined and is now being done by senior officers of the Kendriya Bhandar on a systematic basis.

(c) and (d). The Statutory Auditors for the year 1990-91 have observed that sales of Rs. 47.41 lakhs have been accounted for in March, 1991 whereas the acturl delivery of goods was made after 31.3.91 and that sales have been inflated by this amount and accordingly the profits have been overstated by Rs. 3.31 lakhs (approximately). A similar observation was made by the statutory auditors for the year 1989-90. The Board of Directors and the body of delegates and the Annual General Meeting of the Kendriya Bhandar held in January, 1991 have laid down a policy in this regard clarifying that sales effected in March every year and against which goods are delivered by May, may be included in the accounts for that year. The sales of Rs. 47.41 lakhs in March, 1991 are essentially in respect of goods delivered by May, 1991 and therefore as per the laid down Policy are to be accounted for in the accounts for 1990-91.

(e) and (f). The Kendriya Bhandar is authorised to undertake the business of Sale and Purchases of Office equipments, Fax machines, Computers, furniture, etc.

(g) and (h). The audited accounts of Kendriya Bhandar are laid on the Table of parliament as per statutory requirement.

[*Translation*]

Prices of Polyester Yarn

4458. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of Polyester Yarn were raised approximately by 30 per cent in July-August 1991;

(b) if so, whether its main reason was devaluation of rupee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). There is no statutory price control on the prices of Polyester Yarn. The market prices are published from time to time in various journals. Changes in prices are based on market considerations.

Import/Export of Fertilizers

4459. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agreements for import/expart of fertilizers have been signed with foreign countries during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the countries with whom such agreements have been signed?

THE MINISTEE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b). Import of fertilizers is canalised through the Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC). During the last three years MMTC finalised contracts for import of fertilizers with a number of suppliers from the countries like Jordan, West Germany, GDR, France, Canada, USSR, Holland, Romania, U.K., Japan, USA, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, Norway, etc.

Being a net importer of fertilizers, India does not normally export fertilizers. However, 10,000 tonnes of DAP and 20,000 tonnes of urea were supplies, respectively by Pyrites Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. and Fertilizer Corporation of India to Nepal to meet its urgent need in 1991.

[*English*]

Financial and technical collaborations

4460. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals for financial and technical collaborations received by the Reserve Bank of India during each of the last three years and during the current year;

(b) the number of proposals, out of these, cleared so far;

(c) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps being taken for early clearance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). In pursuance of the decision contained in paras 39 (B) and 30 (C) of the Statement on Industrial Policy tabled in both the Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991, the Reserve Bank of India Started receiveing applications for automatic approval of direct foreign investment and technical collaborations only after 16th September, 1991.

The total number of applications received by the Reserve Bank of India upto 14.3.1992 is 505. Out of these, 365 have been approved; 90 have been returned to the respective applicants as these were not within the powers delegated to the Reserve Bank of India while the remaining 50 were under process as on 14.3.1992. The normal period for disposal of applications by the Reserve Bank of India is two weeks and he of the 50 cases under process is pending beyond two weeks.

Shortage of Hearses in Delhi

4461. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Hearses in the Capital;

(b) whether some private Hearses are plying in the Capital without permit; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The M.C.D. has reported that they have adequate num-